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The [Africa Research In Sustainable Intensification for the Next Generation](http://africa-rising.net/) (Africa RISING) program comprises three research-in-development projects supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) as part of the U.S. Government’s Feed the Future initiative.

Through action research and development partnerships, Africa RISING is creating opportunities for smallholder farm households to move out of hunger and poverty through sustainably intensified farming systems that improve food, nutrition, and income security, particularly for women and children, and conserve or enhance the natural resource base.

The three regional projects are led by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (in West Africa and East and Southern Africa) and the International Livestock Research Institute (in the Ethiopian Highlands). The International Food Policy Research Institute leads the program’s monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment.

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# Names of traveler(s)

1. Inviolate Dominick
2. Hassan Mndiga

## Purpose of trip

Field visit to farmers supported by Kilimo Endelevu Project in generation two new villages in Karatu distict to observe the ongoing activities, identify knowledge and training gaps on vegetable production in order to build their capacity to improve nutrition, health and reduce poverty among households. Kilimo Endelevu project is funded by Iles de Paix (IDP).

## Country/countries visited

Tanzania

## Dates of trip

15-17th March 2021

## Budget source

Iles de Paix (IDP)

# List of people met during the trip and their contact details

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Title** | **Contact** |
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# Important results/information gathered during the trip

* Before the field visit, we had brief meeting at Kilimo Endelevu office in Karatu where the team leader for Kilimo Endelevu, Silvester Masanja gave an overview of ongoing project activities in the new project villages.
* We explained briefly about the objective of the field visit and requested Kilimo Endelevu team to give a briefing about the general overview of notable outcome regarding ToT facilitated by WorldVeg Center to IDP Farmer trainers in the new villages last year including challenges, gaps and opportunities.
* In collaboration with IDP- Kilimo Endelevu representative 7 farmer groups were visited in 4 villages namely Upper Kitete, Qurus, Basdodawish, and Kilimatembo
* Focus group discussions (FDG) with key informants including farmer group representatives, individual farmers, local leaders, and some household members met in the field as well as direct observation methods were employed, the below findings were observed:
* Farmers showed interest on vegetable production as some of them have home garden, however, knowledge and skills on good agronomic practices including nursery establishment and management of vegetable gardens is required.
* Inadequate information and practical skills on vegetable production almost in all areas visited despite the TOT training on sustainable vegetable production farmers and extension agents received from WorldVeg in August, 2020 whom in turn were expected to train other farmers in their respective villages. This was demonstrated by poor nursery management, incorrect spacing, irregular irrigation and poor crop management practices.
* Harvesting and postharvest handling techniques of vegetables were not properly observed.
* High incidence of insect pest damage and diseases outbreak which might be caused by poor application of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques. Example of diseases and insect pests identified include powdery mildew in pumpkin leaves, aphids, spider mites, and early blight in nightshade, powdery and downy mildew, bacterial blight, aphids and white flies.
* Information on pest identification, management and control by using alterative options locally available is highly required to rescue the crops damage, improve the health of farmers, consumers and environment conservation as well.
* Inadequate water for irrigation was among the challenge mentioned, a request was put forward by some farmers to be provide with drip irrigation kits to serve little water available
* Farmers mentioned the lack of good quality seeds especially traditional vegetables as they complain that some seeds, they do purchase from local Agro-dealers do not perform well.
* Knowledge and skills on nutrition messages and proper preparation of vegetables recipes is highly needed. For example, a farmer from Qurus, village said that “we are requesting the project to train us on the importance of vegetables for our health because other family members don’t like to eat vegetables because they are not used to it since they were young because we think if we eat other food stuff is just enough”

**After the field trip we discussed the findings and come up with possible areas to address the gaps as listed below;**

* Establish 4 demonstration plots as farmer field schools (FFS) in villages visited Upper Kitete (2 FFS), Qurus (2 FFS) as well, Basdodawish (1FFS), and Kilimatembo (1 FFS) through facilitation of various practical trainings and provide technical support particularly on Good agronomic Practices (GAP), by employing technologies validated by WorldVeg such as use of elite vegetable seed varieties, healthy seedlings production in combination with Integrated Pest Management Practices (IPM)
* Conduct nutrition message training based on food groups and their nutritional content including vegetable recipe preparation to extension agents and farmer groups.
* Train farmers on appropriate preharvest and postharvest handling practices including harvest, process/manage, packaging and storage and transport their products in a better way in order to add value, reduce losses and sell at more favorable conditions.
* WorldVeg task force in collaboration with Kilimo Endelevu team to continue building the capacity of Technical staff and Extension agents through Training of Trainers (ToT) courses as need arises.

# Suggestions for follow-up

* Hassan Mndiga and Inviolate Dominick in collaboration with Kilimo Endelevu field staff and extension agents to facilitate establishment of demo plots in selected villages from 12-16 April 2021.
* WorldVeg task force in collaboration with Kilimo endelevu field team to agree on the list of African Traditional vegetables for establishment of demo plots latest by end of March 2021 to give room for preparation of plant germplasm.
* IDP-Kilimo Endelevu field team Leader Silverter Masanja led by project Manager Ayesiga Buberwa discuss and prioritize the areas of action suggested by field team to address the gaps and challenges and share the way forward in order to plan for the activities at earliest convenient time.

# Photo gallery



**Figure 1:** Focus Group Discussions on going with Muuangano farmer group

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**Figure 2:** Pest and disease identification at Basosodawish farmer’s field



**Figure 3:** Identification of area for demo plot establishment at Qurus village